Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 05019 300917Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 (ISO) $\rm W$

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R 300723Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3090

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XH, RP, UN

SUBJ: TRIP OF FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL TO EE CAPITALS

REF: SOFIA 0672

- 1. WHEN ASKED ABOUT EE TRIP OF FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL, AMBASSADOR MABILANGAN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT MACAPAGAL IS TRAVELLING PRIVATELY AND IS CHARGED WITH NO OFFICIAL MISSION BY GOP. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT PHILIPPINE UN MISSION HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MACAPAGAL AND THAT MACAPAGAL IS STILL MEMBER OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL AND WOULD PROBABLY REPORT TO PRESIDENT MARCOS AFTER HE RETURNS.
- 2. MACAPAGAL'S PRESENT TRIP HAS ALREADY TAKEN HIM TO THAILAND AND IRAN, AND HE REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO VISIT FRANCE AND ITALY AFTER EE SWING. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION INDICATING HE INTENDS VISIT US. HE HAS NOT REQUESTED VISA FROM EMBASSY, NOR DOES HE HOLD CURRENT VISA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MANILA 05019 300917Z

3. MACAPAGAL, 63, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PHILIPPINE POLITICS FOR THE PAST QUARTER-CENTURY. HE SERVED AS VICE-PRESIDENT (1952-1961) AND PRESIDENT (1961-1965). IN 1965 HE WAS DEFEATED IN HIS BID FOR RE-ELECTION BY PRESIDENT MARCOS. HE EMERGED FROM SEMI-RETIREMENT IN 1971 AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, IN WHICH HE CLASHED WITH ATTEMPTS BY MARCOS TO TURN THE CONVENTION TO HIS OWN NEEDS. MACAPAGAL HAS HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER AND HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY. SINCE DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW IN LATE 1972, HE HAS PLAYED LARGELY CEREMONIAL ROLE BY VIRTURE OF HIS PAST POSITIONS. THE ONLY LIVING FORMER PRESIDENT, MACAPAGAL'S REMAINS A MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF LEADERS, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL. SULLIVAN

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